

Biden's massive accomplishment of slashing the Federal deficit by more than any other President in the first 16 months.

Mr. Speaker, this is huge. But even better news: Biden is on track to double down on building a better America for generations to come.

This year's deficit is on track to fall by \$1.7 trillion which is the single largest 1-year reduction in American history. I repeat: This is the single largest reduction in American history.

In contrast, the Trump administration increased the Federal budget deficit. Every single year in office, it went up.

I can't say I am surprised, however. This accomplishment of the President is not coincidence. It is the result of a well-designed and well-managed recovery plan from the pandemic.

It is a result of President Biden and Congress passing key legislation like the historical American Rescue Plan which got people back to work, kids back in school, and families healthy again.

It is the result of a President who puts people first—not politics, people.

But on another note, it is no secret that the recent price hikes that have been caused by the war criminal Putin are burdening hardworking families. In fact, Putin's price hike has increased gas prices by \$2 a gallon in many places since Russian troops began to threaten Ukraine, and families are seeing higher prices in the grocery aisles, too.

Sadly, Putin is increasing inflation, not only here in America, but also throughout the globe. House Democrats and President Biden won't stand for this. My colleagues and I are working side by side with the President to lower costs for working people at the gas pump, at the grocery store, and across the shelves.

That is why House Democrats passed critical bills like the Lowering Food and Fuel Costs Act, Ocean Shipping Reform Act, and the Consumer Fuel Price Gouging Prevention Act.

These key bills will strengthen our supply chains, create more maritime jobs in communities like my home district, and lower both gas and goods prices.

Just yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the President announced that he is in favor of taking a pause of 3 months on the Federal gas tax. He has challenged Congress to pass that, to put a pause on the Federal gasoline tax for 3 months.

Now, our tax is 18 cents. That would be 18 cents per gallon every time someone fills up. He challenged all of the Governors to do the same.

Some Governors, like the Governors of Florida and Georgia and others, have already done this. In my State of Texas, that means an additional savings of 20 cents. Added together, that would be 38 cents a gallon.

That is huge. That is a huge savings in cutting prices down. For an average tank of 15 gallons, that would be a savings of \$5.70 every time they fill up.

So I hope that our Governor does like Florida and Georgia and rises to the challenge that the President has made yesterday and puts a pause on Texas' gasoline tax.

House Democrats are taking strong steps. We are joining hands with the President to make sure that we lower rising prices caused by Putin's cruel war in Ukraine. I call on all my Republican colleagues across the aisle to join us.

Most Republicans voted against all those bills that I just mentioned. It is time to act. Enough is enough. I urge them to fight with us for hardworking American families. Together, we can build a better America for today and for generations to come.

#### HONORING THE LEGACY OF COTTON ROSSEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep, deep regret and sadness over the loss of a local legend, Cotton Rossey, who was 93 years old.

Known as a top rodeo man all over the north State and even all over the country, he is known for winning so many awards and accolades in his job as a rodeo man.

He used to open for the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas at least 10 years in a row. He had the Flying U Company, a rodeo company that traveled all over the Western States, bringing his show.

He was always, always improving the show, making it into something spectacular. He would bring ideas from ice skating and others to make the show even more spectacular. He was innovative in that.

He was recognized in 2019 as a Legend of ProRodeo, 1995 ProRodeo Hall of Fame inductee, 1985 PRCA Stock Contractor of the Year, over 60 years doing shows, and over 70 years in rodeo.

He was truly a good man, a nice man, and his family is his legacy, the good people they are, that he leaves behind.

The legacy with the Red Bluff Round-Up and taking stock up there and Colusa Western Days, I have participated in all these things as an observer, the Marysville Stampede. It has just been such a rich part of northern California and the West and, indeed, the whole country.

I will leave you with a quote from him. You know, he was 93, so in recent years, having had to retire somewhat, he said, "I am just the PR man now. I never imagined my rodeo career would be like this. I am the richest guy in the world with memories and friends. I loved every minute of the rodeo business, and I would do it all over again." Such a great memory, indeed.

A good friend of mine; hard to deal with. We are very proud of Cotton Rossey in northern California.

SECURITY FOR OUR SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

Mr. Speaker, any day now, the Supreme Court is expected to make an of-

ficial announcement on their decision in the Dobbs v. Jackson case.

Ever since the draft opinion was leaked, radical leftists have tried to intimidate, threaten, and harass the conservative Justices on the Court.

There have been multiple attacks against pro-life and pregnancy centers across the whole country. A deranged individual was caught plotting to assassinate Justice Brett Kavanaugh and his family at their home.

He was caught carrying a handgun, two clips of ammunition, a tactical knife, pepper spray, a crowbar, a nail punch, duct tape, a hammer, and a screwdriver outside their home.

The White House refused to condemn this heinous crime. The pro-abortion group, Ruth Sent Us, publicly threatened Justice Amy Coney Barrett's children, as well. They tweeted the exact location of the children's school and church, along with the schedules of when they would be there. These radicals are jeopardizing the lives of our Justices' families.

It took a month for congressional Democrats and Senate Leader SCHUMER to bring the Supreme Court Police Parity Act to the floor for a vote. This bill offers security to family members of the Supreme Court Justices, which is more critical than ever.

While unnecessarily delaying the bill, Speaker PELOSI even had the audacity to claim, "Nobody is in danger over the weekend because of our not having a bill." There was an assassination plot. Of course, people were, in fact, in danger.

Despite the slew of threats, I pray that the Court does the right thing for our Nation's unborn and upholds our Constitution.

Overtaking Roe does not ban abortion but rightly returns the abortion debate back to Congress and to the State legislatures. In our Republic, those elected by the people should be the ones to create laws and balance tradeoffs, not judges.

In the nearly 50 years since Roe became the law of the land, over 63 million unborn children have been killed due to judicial activism.

Life begins at the moment of conception, and an overwhelming number of Americans believe in protecting babies still in the womb. In order to preserve our judicial system, we cannot allow these intimidation tactics to win the day. The Court must be allowed to do its job unfettered while not actively legislating from the bench.

□ 1015

#### CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF PELL GRANTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 50th anniversary of the Pell Grant Program.

In 1972, Congress amended the Higher Education Act by creating the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant to provide direct financial aid to low-income students so they could have the same access to higher education and opportunity for success as their higher income peers.

The program was later named the Pell grant for its original sponsor, Senator Pell, Democrat from Rhode Island. The original bill was signed into law by Republican President Richard Nixon, and the program has maintained this original bipartisan support over the last 50 years.

To date, more than 80 million students have received a Pell grant to go to college since the program was created. Currently, nearly 7 million students are going to college with a Pell grant, or about 40 percent of undergraduate students. In my district in the great city of Philadelphia, nearly 22,000 students receive \$90.5 million to pursue their higher education goals.

The Federal investment in Pell grants is targeted to students with demonstrated financial need, students whose families have incomes of \$40,000 or less. The investment pays off by increasing college completion and economic mobility.

On the 50-year anniversary of the Pell Grant Program, I encourage the United States to celebrate national Pell grant day by recognizing the current students and successful graduates who have benefited from the program by telling their student success stories and encouraging the same access for future students, demonstrating the importance of what the Pell grant has meant.

The Pell grant is significant to the future of this country, and it is important that we all stand up for this program that has been valuable to our young people for the future, no matter what side of the aisle we are on.

#### THE PERILS OF EXPERTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, we all know the tale of "The Emperor's New Clothes." Grifters convince an emperor that they are expert tailors who weave a cloth so fine that only the virtuous can see it. The emperor wraps himself in nothing and parades the streets as all the townspeople compete to signal their own virtue by proclaiming how beautiful the material is, even though their own common sense tells them otherwise. This scheme is successful until a little boy who knows better states the obvious.

For 2 years now, we were told by the experts that they could stop COVID-19 if everyone did exactly as they commanded. I am science, as one put it. They quashed debate within the medical community and ridiculed, censored, and fired any dissenters.

Looking back, we can clearly see what a self-destructive folly they produced. Study after study now confirms the obvious, that the mask mandate, school closures, home detention orders, and business closures had virtually no impact on the virus. But they did appalling damage to the economy, seriously harmed children in ways we are still cataloging, and cost untold lives due to suicides, drug and alcohol overdoses, delayed health screenings and treatments, and poverty-related deaths.

This recent, tragic experience should warn us all to be much more skeptical of surrendering common sense to so-called experts and of suppressing free debate over what science actually is telling us, which brings us to the Democrats' ongoing and escalating war on fossil fuels.

The road they have placed us on leads to a bleak future of unaffordable energy, rolling blackouts, empty shelves, and increasingly brutal rationing of every watt of electricity and drop of gasoline that we once took for granted.

Gasoline prices are already the highest ever seen in this country as we have discouraged production. Electricity prices are skyrocketing, pushed by the crushing cost of renewables. Utilities across the country are now warning of summer blackouts because renewable mandates have destabilized the electricity grid.

Joe Biden and the Democrats promised to wage war on fossil fuels, and they have succeeded. On his first day in office, he canceled the Keystone pipeline, which today should have been completed and delivering 830,000 barrels of crude oil every day into American markets. He canceled oil and gas exploration on Federal lands. Just last month, he withdrew 1 million acres of land from exploration and production in oil-rich Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico.

And he blames Vladimir Putin? Under the progrowth policies of the Trump administration, America didn't need Putin's oil. We were energy independent for the first time in our lifetimes. We were producing more oil than Russia and even Saudi Arabia. The day the Democrats took office, gasoline was averaging \$2.39 a gallon.

Today's sky-high fuel prices are aggravating supply chain breakdowns and adding to consumer prices. Acreage once devoted to growing corn for food is now used to produce ethanol, which requires trading an entire acre of corn to produce just 550 gallons of ethanol.

The irony is, at a time when these Green New Deal policies can't guarantee enough electricity to keep the lights on this summer at any price, these Democrat elitists are telling families to buy electric cars. Where do they think the electricity for their electric cars comes from? Eighty percent comes from fossil fuels that they are ruthlessly shutting down.

The excuse for all of this, of course, is to stop global warming, but they

cannot account for why it is that there have been periods throughout paleo history when temperatures have been much higher and also much lower than they are today. Nor do they account for the infinitely more powerful natural forces that shape our constantly changing climate.

The blind reliance on handpicked experts and the suppression of dissent in our approach to COVID cost lives and destroyed the most prosperous economic expansion in our lifetimes. But its excesses pale in comparison to what the green left is now doing to our society. The pain and damage we are feeling today is just the first bitter taste of what is to come if they prevail.

Of one thing we can be certain: Whether or not we destroy our Nation's prosperity by continuing the Democrats' war on fossil fuels, the Earth will continue to warm and cool, as it has for billions of years. The only question we can answer is whether ours will be a future of abundance or scarcity, prosperity or poverty, comfort or misery.

#### FAREWELL TO JULIE NICKSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge my chief of staff, Julie Little Nickson, who, after 22 years of service in the House and 20 years in my office, will soon be departing the Hill.

Let me take a moment to acknowledge Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR, who Julie worked for prior to coming to my office and for her gracious help with Julie's transition to my office.

Julie joined my staff in 2002 and quickly distinguished herself as a skilled manager and leader of Team Lee. She undoubtedly got to know many district constituents and hit the ground running.

Her keen understanding of the intersection of policy, politics, and procedure has helped drive so many accomplishments through the decades. She has also ensured that my constituents understand the relationship between our work in Washington, D.C., and their daily lives.

From her work advancing my efforts as coauthor of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, back in 2003 to the development and enactment of the historic American Women Quarters act in 2020, Julie has been the strategic guiding force propelling my agenda. She makes sure that the inclusion of staff is prominent in everything I do and that staff is recognized and is central to her work.

She has been the key and steady leader of my work to prevent the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Of course, that work grew and expanded to include numerous efforts to end our forever wars and rein in unchecked executive war powers, including my work to repeal the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs.